



Farm Bill Comment Sheet

The 2002 Farm Bill (officially entitled the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002) authorizes many USDA programs, including farm price and income support programs. New legislation will need to be enacted prior to the bill's expiration in 2007.

USDA intends to develop recommendations for the new farm bill and believes that public input is essential to this process. To comment, please respond to the questions below by December 30, 2005.

Farm Bill Comments may be provided to any of the following:

- Submit comments electronically via the internet at the USDA home page – <http://www.usda.gov>, by selecting "Farm Bill Forums"
- Email comments to: FarmBill@usda.gov
- In Writing-mail to: Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, Farm Bill, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3355
- Hand Deliver to: Room 116A at the above address.

NOTE: All comments, including names and addresses, provided by respondents are a matter of public record. Comments may be viewed at the Department of Agriculture. To make arrangements to view comments, please contact the Office of the Executive Secretariat, Room 116A, Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-3355.

Your Contact Information	
First Name	Chns
Last Name	Huse
Address Line 1	Box 304
Address Line 2	
City	ONIDA
State	SD
Zip Code	57564

Question 1: The challenges facing new farmers and ranchers as they enter agriculture.

Some observers note that while farm policy has served agriculture and the country well in the past, there are "unintended consequences" that should be addressed, such as the capitalization of program benefits into land prices. These higher land prices are cited as a barrier to entry into agriculture for new farmers; a factor in reduced profit for existing farmers; and a cause of weakened competitive position on the part of U.S. farmers compared with farmers in countries with lower-priced land.

How should farm policy address any unintended consequences and ensure that such consequences do not discourage new farmers and the next generation of farmers from entering production agriculture?

Comment:

Reduce or better yet eliminate DEATH TAXES. That would help the most. With outside bidders running up land costs and estate taxes there will be no one to continue farming.

Question 2: The competitiveness of U.S. agriculture in global and domestic markets.

As bilateral, regional, and multilateral trade negotiations continue to result in reduced barriers to international trade, exports and imports of agricultural products are expected to become increasingly important factors in U.S. and global agriculture. Obtaining ever-greater access to growing foreign markets and being increasingly competitive in these and in domestic markets is essential for farm economic growth. One key factor in our ability to be competitive depends on the types of products demanded around the world in the next 10 to 20 years and our ability to produce products that meet this world demand.

How should farm policy be designed to maximize U.S. competitiveness and our country's ability to effectively compete in global markets?

Comment:

Hold other nations to their agreements! China was to not subsidize their corn exports as a condition for WTO entry. They did anyway and our government did NOTHING! Now Mexico wants to revisit NAFTA and we will let them do it!

Question 3: The appropriateness and effectiveness of the distribution of farm program benefits.

A longstanding goal of farm policy has been to enhance and stabilize farm prices and incomes. Current farm programs, including crop insurance, distribute assistance based on past and current production levels. Some argue that the current farm support system encourages increases in farm size and results in the disproportionate distribution of program benefits to large farms. It has also been suggested that program incentives lead to increased production and lower market prices.

How should farm policy be designed to effectively and fairly distribute assistance to producers?

Comment:

Due to existing program payment limits the large farm cannot compete with the smaller farms which are not affected by the limits. The production will be there regardless as to who raises it! THINK!

Question 4: The achievement of conservation and environmental goals.

While producing food and fiber are essential functions, agriculture also plays a major role in natural resource stewardship. Some have suggested that future farm policy might be anchored around the provision of tangible benefits such as cleaner water and air. Such an approach may be consistent with future World Trade Organization obligations on domestic support to agriculture, while also expanding farm programs to extend more broadly across agriculture, including private forest lands

How can farm policy best achieve conservation and environmental goals?

Comment:

We have moved to 100% no-till. We need EPA regulations on chemicals for minor crops to be more reasonable. Encourage NO-TILL farming. Assist farmers in putting in grass waterways.

Question 5: The enhancement of rural economic growth.

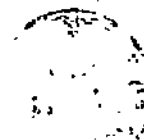
Farming and rural America once were almost synonymous. Over the years, the demographic and economic characteristics of rural areas have changed, as has farming's role in the rural economy. This raises the issue of whether more Government attention should be focused on investing in the infrastructure in rural America (for example, investing in new technologies).

How can Federal rural and farm programs provide effective assistance in rural areas?

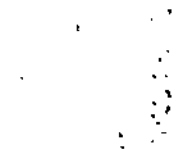
Comment:

Where do you think the farmer's dollars go to? It is spent in the rural economy. GET A CLUE GUYS. Think a little!

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